



WHY DO I DO WHAT I DO?

SERMON GUIDE

HOW DO I RECOGNIZE IDOLS?

James 4:1-4; Luke 6:43-45

Pastor Pat Stream

January 28, 2024

Faith Community Church | fcchudson.com

Conversation Questions

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

Scripture that stands out to you while you read

Observations about the verse or phrases that stood out to you

Application that connect the verses to your real life and relationships

Prayers that invite God to participate in your life and provide power to follow him

Getting to know me: When you hear the word "idol" what kinds of words, images and feelings immediately come to mind?

Note about the passage: "An idol is anything or anyone that begins to capture our hearts, minds and affections more than God. It's exchanging the one true living God for a counterfeit." - Brad Bigney.

Read Numbers James 4:1-6 and Luke 6:43-45

- S** What verses, phrases, or words stand out to you as you read this text? Is anything "illuminated" or jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?
- O** What "fruit"(emotions, actions, reactions) and "roots"(what's happening in the heart) do you see in these verses?
- O** How do the fruits and roots in these verses impact our relationship with God and others?
- O** Using the definition of an idol above, do you see any dynamics of idolatry in these verses?
- O** What is God like and what promise has he given those who struggle with idolatry?
- O** What do you think it means that "God gives more grace"? How would you describe it to a friend?
- A** If God had written these passages just for you today, which would you need to pay the most attention to this week and why?
- A** Do you experience any fruit or roots in your own life that connect to these verses? Be as specific as you are able.
- A** One important exercise for Christians to understand their own heart better is to take time to identify what kinds of idols they are most tempted to worship.

To help with that, we there is a tool called *Identifying Personal Idols*.

You can find it using the qr code or link: [Identifying Personal Idols](#)

Take some time this week to walk through this tool. Share your results with a trusted friend.



- P** Talk to God about your application responses. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction as needed.